Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (canceled)

2. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes having a cross section chosen to provide strength to hold the inner housing in the outer housing without permitting contact between the inner and outer housings, but further being sized to minimize conductive heat loss through the spokes from the inner housings to the outer housings.

3. (original) The device defined in claim 2, wherein the spokes are made from a high nickel stainless steel that is greater than 30% nickel.

4. (original) The device defined in claim 3, wherein the spokes have a cross section that is relatively thin in the longitudinal direction.

5. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 3, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including wire mesh supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housings.

6. (original) The device defined in claim 4, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including ceramic pads supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housing.

7. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are made from an alloy steel material including nickel.

8. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes have a cross section that is less than about 1.5 mm in its narrowest dimension.

9. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including wire mesh supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housings.

10. (currently amended) The device defined in ~~claim 1~~claim 25, wherein the spokes include inner and outer ends, one of the inner and outer ends including ceramic pads supporting the one end on the associated one of the inner and outer housing.

11. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the support slidably engages one of the inner and outer housings.

12. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are flexible in a direction perpendicular to their length, such that the spokes flex to accommodate a relative increase in a length of the inner housing over the outer housing when the inner housing thermally expands significantly more than the outer housing.

13. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes are elongated and have a length to width ratio of at least about 3 to 1.

14. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 25, wherein the spokes have a tubular cross section.

15. (currently amended) The device defined in ~~claim 1~~claim 25, wherein the support comprises a one-piece component having an inner ring flange and an outer ring flange with the plurality of spokes extending therebetween.

16. (canceled)

17. (previously presented) An exhaust treatment device for vehicles comprising:

an inner housing having an inlet and an outlet defining a longitudinal direction and having a thermally-activated exhaust treatment device therein chosen to reduce emissions from the exhaust of a combustion engine as the exhaust passes from the inlet to the outlet;

an outer housing enclosing the inner housing but characteristically not contacting the inner housing, the outer housing including an inlet and an outlet that align with the inlet and outlet of the inner housing, the inner and outer housings including walls forming a sealed cavity around the inner housing, the cavity having a vacuum drawn therein; and

a support that supports the inner housing in the outer housing, the support including a radially-extending body and including a foot that engages at least one of the inner and outer housings, the foot including an insulative material different from the body, the insulative material being chosen to minimize conductance of heat.

18. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the ~~feet include~~foot includes an insulative material selected from one of wire mesh, ceramic, and a composite.

19. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 18, wherein the ~~feet include~~foot includes wire mesh.

20. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 18, wherein the ~~feet include~~foot includes ceramic pads.

21. (currently amended) The device defined in claim [[18]]19, wherein the ~~feet include composite~~foot includes a structurally-rigid high temperature stable insulative material.

22. (currently amended) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the ~~feet slidably engage~~foot slidably engages the one housing.

23. (original) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the exhaust treatment device includes a catalytic material.

24. (canceled)

25. (previously presented) The device defined in claim 17, wherein the radially-extending body includes spokes.